NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NR#   59-L
Date: October 9, 2003
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HELP FOR CENTRAL VALLEY SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS

Bill Leonard, Member, State Board of Equalization, is hosting a free, one-day tax fair for Central Valley/Stockton area small businesses on Thursday, October 23, 2003, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel Stockton, 2323 Grand Canal Blvd., Stockton.

"Many small business owners are overwhelmed by tax laws and reporting requirements. This fair brings together the state, federal and local government representatives who can answer questions and help small business owners through the red tape," said Board Member Leonard.

The fair will include presentations by Board of Equalization, Employment Development Department, Franchise Tax Board, Internal Revenue Service, Small Business Administration, as well as other local, state, and federal agencies.

The small business fair will begin at 8:30 a.m. with registration, followed at 9:00 a.m. with opening remarks by Mr. Leonard. The fair will include general information sessions, as well as workshops tailored to suit the needs of the small business owner.

Topics to be presented include:

- Preparing a Sales and Use Tax Return
- What to Expect in a Sales and Use Tax Audit
- Understanding Your Business Property Statement
- State Income Tax and Small Business
- Tax Avoidance Schemes, IRS
- Employee or Independent Contractor, EDD & IRS
- Labor Law Governing the Payment of Wages

For more information or to obtain a brochure, please call (209) 469-7484; or visit Board Member Leonard's website at http://www.boe.ca.gov/leonard and click on Events on the left-hand side of that page.

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